

# Battles of Vicious Character Being Fought in Eastern Zone

cruiser, Sydney. It is taken for granted, however, that the convoy of the transports was so strong that even the U-boats would not have dared attack them.

The statement made in the Italian Parliament by Premier Salandra that Italy should maintain her attitude of watchful and armed neutrality has created much interest here, and sympathy is expressed for the aspirations of the Italian people.

### RUSSIA AND GREAT BRITAIN IN FINANCIAL AGREEMENT

LONDON, December 4 (8:35 P. M.).—Great Britain has reached an agreement with Russia whereby England, in consideration of a shipment of \$40,000,000 from Russia, will arrange with the Bank of England to discount, under guarantee of the British government, further amounts of \$40,000,000 in Russian treasury bills. The rate of discount will be on the basis of the rate at which Great Britain has borrowed for her own needs.

The \$40,000,000 will be applied by Russia to providing exchange for Anglo-Russian trade. The \$40,000,000 will be used to pay coupons on Russian external debts payable in London, and for financing Russian purchases in England, or where Great Britain is unable to supply the article required and orders have to be placed in Canada or the United States.

### OCCUPATION OF BELGRADE CAUSES JOY IN VIENNA

VENICE, December 4 (via London, 8:45 P. M.).—There was great jubilation in Vienna to-day when news of the occupation of Belgrade by the Austrians was published, and the streets were decorated with flags. Newspapers were filled with praise of the Austro-Hungarian troops.

### ATTACKS BY FRENCH REPEATEDLY REPULSED

BERLIN, December 4 (by wireless to London, 3 P. M.).—The French troops in Flanders are repeatedly attacking the German line, says the official statement given out to-day at the War Office, which adds that the assaults have been repulsed. The statement follows:

"In the western theatre of war French attacks against our troops in Flanders were repeatedly repulsed, as they were also in the region north-west of Aitkirch, where the French suffered considerable losses.

"In the eastern theatre of war the enemy's attacks east of the plain of the Masurian lakes were repulsed with heavy losses to the Russians.

"Our offensive in Poland is taking its normal course.

"His Majesty the Emperor arrived in Berlin last night for a short stay. (Signed) 'CHIEF OF THE ARMY ADMINISTRATION.'

### INFANTRY FAILS TO GAIN GROUND

PARIS, December 4 (2:40 P. M.).—The French official statement, given out this afternoon in Paris, reads as follows:

"In Belgium there has been an intermittent but fairly spirited cannonade between the railroad from Ypres to Roulers, and highway between Becelaere and Passchendaele, where the intensity of the fighting has increased to gain ground, but quite without success.

"At Vermelles we are continuing the work of organizing the positions taken from the enemy.

"From the Somme to the Argonne region there is quiet along the entire front.

"In the Argonne region there have been several attacks on the part of the German infantry, but all were repulsed by our troops, particularly at La Corno, to the northwest of the forest of Gurie.

"There has been some artillery firing in the Woevre district and in Lorraine.

"There is nothing to report in Alsace."

### QUIET PREVAILS IN THE CARPATHIANS

VIENNA, December 4 (10:30 P. M.).—The following official communication was issued to-night:

"In the Carpathians, in West Galicia and in South Poland quiet prevailed generally yesterday.

"The fighting in North Poland continues."

### BATTLE OF LODZ SUCCESS FOR RUSSIANS

LONDON, December 4 (5:32 P. M.).—In a dispatch from Petrograd the correspondent of the Central News says: "The battle of Lodz has ended in success for the Russian troops, according to the Bourge Gazette, which adds that great numbers of German prisoners, cannon and machine guns are being brought into Lodz.

### NO NOTABLE INCIDENT ON ANY PART OF FRONT

PARIS, December 4 (10:37 P. M.).—The following official communication was issued to-night:

"At no place along the entire front have there been any notable incidents.

"On our right wing we have made progress in the direction of and near to Aitkirch.

"During the day of December 2 we took 991 prisoners in the region of the north alone."

### OBITUARY

Mrs. W. C. Trueheart.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] CHESTER, Va., December 4.—Mrs. W. C. Trueheart, who has been in poor health for the last few years, died at her home at this place at 9 o'clock this morning. She was 74 years of age. Her husband, W. C. Trueheart, cashier of Chesterfield County Bank, and one little daughter, Rose, four years old.

The remains and funeral party will leave over the Seaboard Air Line Railway at 7:30 on Sunday morning for Leesburg, London County, where the burial will take place at 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

### DEATHS

HOSSER.—Died, at his residence, 513 North Seventh Street, Friday, December 4, 1914, at 8 P. M., THOMAS W. HOSSER, in the seventy-fifth year of his age.

Funeral notice later.

HANSON.—Died, at Stuart Circle Hospital, Friday, December 4, at 11 P. M., VICTOR HANSON, of 1519 Enslow Avenue, Highland Park, aged sixty-nine years. He leaves a wife and one son, George A. Hanson.

Funeral notice later.

### TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

WANTED, by 2 young men, board in vicinity of Washington, D. C. West End, G 105, care Times-Dispatch.

LOST, one collie puppy, 5 months old. Reward if returned to 216 East Marshall, C. O. Turner.



A Flooded Canal at Ypres—Here the Allies and the Germans have been fighting for some weeks. Some correspondents have described the canal as a stream of blood, and one account of a battle stated that the Germans crossed the canal at one point, stepping on the bodies of their fellow-soldiers which filled the channel from bank to bank. From the shelters on the banks the allies poured a devastating fire into the ranks of the fleeing Germans.

### LILLE SPARED BY GERMANS; ARRAS SUFFERS TERRIBLY

In former City Invaders Satisfy Themselves With Need on Necessaries of Life.

BY PATRICK DE BATHIE.

NORTHERN FRANCE, December 4.—With the exception of Lille-fives, a suburb of Lille, that city has been spared by the Germans. Arras, on the other hand, suffered terribly.

A correspondent who left Lille on November 29 states that the inhabitants have not suffered from any unusual exactions. The Germans have satisfied themselves with looting upon actual necessities of life; they have even undertaken to see to the importation of eggs, butter and milk.

In the town of Lille the tramways are running between Lille, Roubaix and Tureling. All the workshops and factories have been left intact. M. Delasalle, the Mayor, is compared to the redoubtable Max of Brussels. He seemed to exercise a wonderful influence over the German authorities and fights with the greatest tenacity for the rights of his fellow-citizens.

Typhoid, contrary to reports, has now broken out at Lille. Several cases have been reported from the German army, any one of which, if it develops in the town, is removed. All of the hospitals in Lille have been taken over by the German authorities. They are full of German wounded.

The chief German surgeon in charge of the Red Cross work at Lille told a French doctor that the Germans lost over 150,000 men on the banks of the Yser.

The story of Arras is different. The daily number of shells poured upon the town is reduced to an average of 200. The hours of bombardment are always the same—from 10:15 A. M. to midday, and from 2 P. M. to 6 P. M. During the night a marmite, as they are called, is dropped at hourly intervals to mark time and replace the clocks, which have been destroyed.

The Hospital of St. John has been completely destroyed. Two bare portions of its east wall is all that remains. The Hotel Des Postes is three-quarters in ruins; the historic belfry is entirely gone. The Rue Faidherbe, the principal business thoroughfare, is in ruins. The Palais de St. Vast, the cathedral, the Archbishop's Palace, the college and every other monument and historic building, lie smoldering in ruins.

Over 250 houses have been leveled, and 300 others partly destroyed. The total casualties, on the other hand, are only sixty killed and eighty wounded, all of whom were civilians.

### WILLIAM R. ROCKHILL ILL

Taken From Liner at Honolulu Too Sick to Finish Trip.

HONOLULU, December 4.—William R. Rockhill, former United States ambassador to Turkey, was taken from the liner Chijo Maru on her arrival here to-day from San Francisco. He is ill to continue on his way to China. He was en route to Peking to confer with President Yuan Shi Kai, of the Chinese republic.

### GERMAN TROOPS SUFFER FROM TYPHOID EPIDEMIC

LONDON, December 5 (3:05 A. M.).—German troops in Flanders, like the Belgians, are suffering from a typhoid epidemic, according to Dutch correspondents of London newspapers. They say the disease is particularly prevalent along the Yser, and that there are many cases among the naval forces at Courtrai.

A son of the King of Wurtemberg is seriously ill of typhoid at German headquarters at Thiel.

### I. C. C. IS NOT TO BLAME FOR MEN OUT OF WORK

Efforts to Place on It Responsibility Will Have No Effect on Freight Rate Decision.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] WASHINGTON, December 4.—In view of the efforts in certain quarters to influence the Interstate Commerce Commission to grant the 5 per cent rate increase to the Eastern railroads, by attempting to place on it the responsibility for the large number of unemployed, the International News Service to-day sounded the commission in no way to blame for the problem of men out of employment, or even for the many laid off by the railroads of the country.

Enough was learned to show positively that the commission considers itself in no way to blame for the large number of men out of employment, or even for the many laid off by the railroads of the country.

When Commissioner Clements was asked if the commission would be influenced to any extent in reaching its decision on the rate condition by the charge that the commission was mainly responsible for this condition, he dictated this statement:

"The only question before the commission under the law, is the so-called proposed increased rates are just and reasonable in the light of all pertinent facts, circumstances and conditions."

The effort was made to-day to find out some of the pertinent facts, circumstances and conditions.

The railroads urged, as one of their main arguments for the 5 per cent advance, that the war was hurting their business.

The opinion is known to exist at the Interstate Commerce Commission that the railroads failed to take advantage of the opportunity given them by the commission to make a complete readjustment of their rates.

The effect of this is claimed, would have been to give the railroads in many instances much more than the 5 per cent increase they asked. The railroads, it is said, could never have done this alone, but with the moral support of the commission, they had an opportunity which they may not have again for a long time.

This applies especially to the railroads in central freight association territory, which received the following invitation to revise their tariffs in the original 5 per cent decision.

"It is not improbable, in view of the modifications we have required in those tariffs, that they will find it more desirable at once to undertake the necessary adjustment which they assert is necessary."

Instead of this, according to the opinion existing at the commission headquarters, the railroads elected to report to their demand for a horizontal advance.

Such a horizontal increase does not impress the commission as a sound method of rate-making, according to the best information that can be obtained in the commission building, if the commission should grant the straight 5 per cent increase, it would be doing it only as a resort to relieve a desperate condition, and not because it thought principle a worthy one. Many which are other than normal, and advanced of such rates 5 per cent would be increasing an evil which might work a great injury to the people.

This is one of the reasons why it is regarded as almost certain in Washington that the application for the 5 per cent advance will be peremptorily denied, and that the best the commission will do for the railroads will be to offer them some indirect benefit.

Still another factor, which the commission is considering, is the possibility that the railroads themselves might be to blame for the depression which they claim to experience.

### CAN'T LIVE ON \$6,000 A YEAR

Mrs. Lucas Seeks to Have Income Raised to \$10,000.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] NEW YORK, December 4.—Mrs. Rachelle N. Lucas cannot live on \$6,000 a year. She has a son to support.

And so she is fighting in court to have her allowance from her husband, fixed at the \$6,000 figure in a separation agreement entered into in 1906, increased at least to \$10,000.

It cost more than \$2,000 to maintain my child at school," Mrs. Lucas told Justice Blanchard, "and as for myself, why I have only the bare necessities of life, and I cannot support my son, my daughter, my husband, my friends, and I have had to order my son to stop accepting social favors from his classmates because, on our income, I cannot let him reciprocate."

### RESALE PRICE NOT FIXED.

Contracts Between Ford Company and Agents Held Invalid.

CINCINNATI, December 4.—Holding as invalid contracts entered into by the Ford Automobile Company, of Detroit, with agents, whereby the resale price of Ford automobiles is fixed by the Ford Company, United States District Judge Hollister to-day ordered the dismissal of a bill of complaint filed by the automobile company against the Union Motor Sales Company, of Dayton, Ohio.

The Ford Company sought an injunction against the defendant to restrain them from representing that they could sell Ford automobiles at less than the regular list price.

## Belgian Soldiers in their Winter Blankets

The hardships of winter are already being experienced by the Belgian fighters, who are but poorly equipped to withstand the biting cold. Heavy winter blankets have been distributed among the men. In these the fighters wrap their head and shoulders and try to keep warm. The photo shows a detail of the men wrapped in the blankets which they have just received at one of the army distributing camps.

## LORD KITCHENER DENIES IRVIN COBB INTERVIEW

Remarks Attributed to Secretary of State for War Declared Imaginary.

STATEMENT BY PRESS BUREAU

American Writer Positive He Caught Britisher's Meaning, and That He Quoted Him Correctly—Used No Pencil and Paper.

LONDON, December 4 (10:20 P. M.).—The Press Association announced to-night that it had been informed officially with reference to an interview purporting to have been had by Irvin S. Cobb with Lord Kitchener, which was printed in the United States and cable to London and published here to-day, "that the language is not that of Lord Kitchener, and that his lordship's official representative expresses surprise that it should have been regarded possible that Lord Kitchener used such expressions."

The official press bureau to-night issued the following statement on the subject:

"With reference to a so-called interview with Mr. Cobb, which was published in the United States and cable to London and published here to-day, 'that the language is not that of Lord Kitchener, and that his lordship's official representative expresses surprise that it should have been regarded possible that Lord Kitchener used such expressions.'

"Although Lord Kitchener saw Mr. Cobb a few minutes October 21, nothing in the nature of a special interview was granted, and the remarks attributed to the Secretary of State for War are imaginary."

The statement attributed to Lord Kitchener by Irvin S. Cobb, which was called forth an official denial by the press bureau of the British War Office, is, probably the following, taken from this week's issue of the Saturday Evening Post:

"The war will last not less than three years," Lord Kitchener said. "It will end only when Germany is thoroughly defeated, not before—defeated on land and on sea. That the allies will win is certain. That for us to win will require a minimum period of three years, I think probable. It might be longer, this war might. It might end sooner. It can end in only one way.

"That it will end in a month from now, or six months, or a year, I do not think likely; so, to be on the safe side, I say three years—at least three years."

### COBB POSITIVE HE QUOTED KITCHENER CORRECTLY

NEW YORK, December 4.—Irvin S. Cobb made this statement to-night regarding his interview with Lord Kitchener:

"By arrangement of a third person of prominence in England, I did see Lord Kitchener on October 21 for about forty minutes. I used no pencil and paper during the conversation, following the custom of interviewers. I afterwards reproduced the conversation with Lord Kitchener as exactly as I could. I did not deliberately or willfully misrepresent him, and I am quite sure that I caught his meaning, and as nearly as possible have told of what he said, and I am sure that I quoted him correctly. I have had some experience as an interviewer, and I have a fairly good memory."

### REWARD IN BOGGS CASE

Sum of \$1,000 Offered for Solution of Death Mystery.

MIAMI, FLA., December 4.—A reward of \$1,000 was offered to-day by Mrs. A. H. Boggs for the arrest and conviction of persons who had conspired to murder her husband and daughter November 25 in their home near here. The city of Miami also has offered a reward of \$1,000 for the apprehension of the French in Alsace against the German Landwehr forces. The movement also has begun in Lorraine.

Burnhardt, near Thann, was captured yesterday by the Vosges Mountains are so deep in snow that at Tete de Pavé, near Col du Bonhomme, at an altitude of 7,800 feet, the advance guards of the armies are fighting in snow two feet deep. The men in Alsace trenches are suffering from the cold.

### GENERAL MOVEMENT OF FRENCH IN ALSACE

GENEVA, December 5 (via Paris, 12:16 A. M.).—During the last three days there has been a general movement of the French in Alsace against the German Landwehr forces. The movement also has begun in Lorraine.

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### HORRORS OF WAR ARE INDESCRIBIBLE

ROME, December 4 (10:14 P. M.).—Monsignor Pelezar, Archbishop of Przemysl, Galicia, arrived in Rome to-day from Przemysl, after having endured grave sufferings. The archbishop was obliged to take to his bed immediately.

Monsignor Pelezar declared the horrors of war in Galicia are indescribable. All his efforts to communicate with other Latin-Gracian-Ruthenian Catholic bishops had been in vain. He said reports concerning their conditions are alarming.

## PUBLIC HEARS NOTHING OF DETAILS OF FIGHTING

War News Consists Only of Unilluminating Reports Given Out at Various Headquarters.

FEW PICTURESQUE SKETCHES

Present Activity of German Artillery Believed to Be Prelude to Another Concentrated Onslaught Somewhere on the Allies' Line.

LONDON, December 4.—A few indirect references, in the shape of picturesque sketches, to the visits of Emperor William and King George to the respective battle fronts, and the activities of the Prince of Wales in the trenches, constitute virtually the entire budget of war news which has reached the British public in the past twenty-four hours, apart, of course, from the unilluminating reports given out at the French, Russian and German headquarters. Of the details of the fighting, with its enormous toll of killed and wounded, the public hears nothing.

For the moment, the dominating issue remains in the eastern arena of the war, where the result of the great clash of millions of men in Poland will go far toward determining the duration of the war, as well as its character during the next few months, but those more or less behind the siege believe they see signs that the deceptive interval of relative calm which has marked the operations in Flanders for the past few days has about reached its limit.

### ACTIVITY IS PRELUDE TO ANOTHER ONSLAUGHT

The present activity of the German artillery is believed to be a prelude to another formidable and concentrated onslaught somewhere on the allies' line. This line, however, is believed by both British and French experts to have been made impregnable, since the last German effort was so nearly successful in hammering its way through.

However this may be, it appears to be established that in these recent artillery duels the allies have found their heavy guns capable of overbearing the artillery of the enemy. This has been emphasized in many of the recent dispatches of General Joffre, commander-in-chief of the French forces.

Should the new German assault meet the same fate as have previous attempts to reach the coast of the channel, observers in London expect that it will be followed by a general advance on the part of the German forces.

There are signs of approaching activity in Alsace, where the French recently have been improving their positions.

At the same time, the Germans are said to have been heavily reinforced in this section. General Joffre's recent declaration to the Alsatians that "we are back here to stay" may soon be put to the test.

## CRAOV APPARENTLY IN THE HANDS OF RUSSIANS

The fighting in Russian Poland, in the opinion of British observers, appears to have had no effect on the Russian operations against Craov, to which has been the main object of the German advance. In the possession of heights within three or four miles of the outer forts of the former capital of Poland, the Russians appear to have been able to get to such close quarters seems to indicate that the guns of Craov are not so formidable as commonly been reported.

If this city falls, it is anticipated that it will have the immediate sequel to the capture of Craov.

The first story of the loss of a British super-Dreadnought, copied from American newspapers, is published here to-day with the omission of the name of the ship and the locality where the mishap occurred.

The reference in the foregoing dispatch to the loss of a British super-Dreadnought, which was reported to have been lost in the Irish Sea, was a mistake. The ship was not lost, but was damaged on October 23, after having come in contact with what is believed to have been a German mine. The British navy has permitted no publication of this story in England, and they have been severely criticized for the suppression of this news.

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### FORMER VIRGINIA WOMAN ORGANIZING HOSPITALS

LONDON, December 4 (5:56 P. M.).—Madame Slavko Grouitch, wife of the Serbian Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, who formerly was Miss Mabel G. Dunlap, of Virginia, arrived in London to-day from Nish, where she had been organizing hospitals for the care of the Serbian wounded.

Madame Grouitch said there were 30,000 wounded persons and 60,000 refugees in Serbia who were in grave need of assistance. She will endeavor to raise money for the Servians.

### SENTIMENT FOR ADDING TO SUBMARINE STRENGTH

Develops During Hearing Before Naval Affairs Committee of House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, December 4.—While submarines have been operating successfully under ideal conditions in the European war, the American navy should accord important functions to a new branch of the service, and not sacrifice battleships for submarines in the opinion of Rear-Admiral Watt, chief constructor of the navy, who outlined his views to-day before the House Naval Affairs Committee.

Questioning by members developed a strong sentiment in the committee for increasing the navy's submarine strength.

Rear-Admiral Watt explained that the Navy Department proposed to let a contract December 15 for a submarine weighing 1,000 tons, with a speed of twenty miles an hour, designed to stay under water long enough to have a greater radius of action than any other submarine afloat.

Rear-Admiral Griffin, chief engineer of the navy, told the committee of having in building the world-girdling system of wireless telegraph towers, of which the Arlington and Honolulu stations are to be a part.

### WILSON DECLINES INVITATION

WASHINGTON, December 4.—President Wilson has declined an invitation to speak at the Rivers and Harbors Congress here next week. He told Senators Fletcher and Randall that other engagements would prevent his attendance. Some members of the cabinet, however, are on the program.

## CARNAGE IS HORRIBLE ON VAST BATTLEFIELD

Zone Where Germans Escaped From Crossfire of Russians Is Perfect Charnel House.

TRENCHES CHOKED WITH DEAD

Not Believed That Present Period of Diminished Intensity Will Be of Long Duration—Views Differ as to Meaning of Developments at Lodz.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] PARIS, December 4.—Some surprise has been caused here by the announcement of the general staff that comparative tranquillity has set in on all fronts where Russian troops are engaged. It is believed that the great battle of Western Poland would be fought to a definite issue without pause or relaxation.

There is no reason to suppose that this period of diminished intensity will be of long duration. Any moment we may hear that operations have been resumed with fresh vigor, and this time they will not be likely to calm down until one side or the other has given way. As to which side that will be, no doubt exists here. Unofficial indications that the Germans suffered very heavily continue. A message from Lodz states that ten cannon and several machine-guns have been taken from the enemy have been brought to that town.

The zone where the Germans succeeded in escaping from the crossfire of the Russian enveloping troops is a perfect charnel house. All who have visited that vast battlefield unite in describing the carnage as horrible. The trenches are choked with layers of German corpses. At one village, in three successive charges, the Siberian riflemen mowed down the German ranks like wheat.

The views of the best military critics differ considerably as to the meaning of the current development of the battle of Lodz. Some believe that the Germans are now merely making tremendous efforts to extricate a portion of their army from a position of deadly peril, and that the object of masses of reinforcements which they are bringing up is to cover the retreat of the shaken and exhausted corps on which the brunt of the protracted conflict has fallen. Others believe that the enemy is still bent on the aggressive, and hopes by persistent efforts to effect a practicable breach in the Russian line.

### RESIGNED THEMSELVES TO DEFENSIVE ATTITUDE

The conviction is gaining ground that the Germans have transferred, and are still transferring very large bodies of troops to Poland from the western front, and have resigned themselves to a defensive attitude against Great Britain and France.

Colonel Shumsky contemplates the possibility of using the German forces in the west being reduced to ten or fifteen corps.

A Tass telegram to the Bourse General staff the Russians are operating in the East. The Russian troops are everywhere they are welcomed by the population with gifts of food. Apprehensions of a general advance were met by a procession, headed by a priest carrying crosses and other religious symbols.

The Turkish inhabitants also try to ingratiate themselves with the invaders. Only the Kurds give trouble. In one place they turned an Armenian monastery into a stable.

No confirmation of the reported massacre of Armenians by the Ottoman army, though many Armenians, fearing outrages, have left their homes and fled to the hills. The Turkish authorities have received orders from Constantinople to discover the hiding places, and persuade them to return by the offer of privileges. The Ottoman troops have been instructed to show the utmost consideration to Armenians.

It has been established that the Turkish and German consuls at Tabriz are making preparations to supply foodstuffs to Ottoman troops, who were expected to invade Persia.

### SHOE-WORKERS WALK OUT

Protest Against Taking a Poll on Arbitration Proposition.

LYNN, MASS., December 4.—Four thousand shoe-workers in this city walked out for three days to-day in protest against the taking of a poll among them on a general arbitration proposition offered by the Chamber of Commerce. The walkout was accomplished without disorder, and resumed later as if there had been no interruption.

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## ALLIES PREPARE TO TEST STRENGTH WITH GERMANS

Counteroffensive Will Be Supreme Effort of Joffre to Expel Invaders.

FURY OF ATTACK WILL BREAK

Fighting Develops With Great Vigor on Three Distinct Fronts—French Commander's Army as Perfect as Modern Science Can Make It.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] PARIS, December 4.—General Joffre's allied forces are marching for a final test of strength with the Germans. The counteroffensive, which is to be the supreme effort of the French commander-in-chief to expel the invaders from France, Alsace and West Flanders, is gradually developing, and the arrival of the psychological moment is all that is awaited for the great drive.

Simultaneously in Flanders, along the Aisne and in Alsace—on three distinct fronts where the fighting of the past few days has developed great vigor—the fury of the grand assault is expected to break forth.

For two weeks, ever since the campaign on the eastern frontier began to turn in favor of the Russian army, the strength of the allied armies has been rolling up in great billows, until today Joffre has at his command a grand army as perfect in equipment, in training and in morale as modern science of war can develop.

Already unofficial reports, partially confirmed by official statements, tell of fighting of unprecedented proportions in Flanders and of another great battle in Alsace.

The Arras engagement, terrific though it has been during the past few days, dwindles in importance when compared with the significance of the new battle along the Yser.

### OFFICIAL REPORTS RECORD REPUSES TO GERMANY

To-day's official reports from the front record repulses to the German attempts to retrieve their lost territory between Becelaere, five miles due east of Ypres, and Passchendaele, seven miles northeast of that town. These are points on the allies' eastern front, out to protect Ypres from German assault. The infantry of the invaders attempted to advance under vigorous cannoning, but they were met and thrown back by the British battalions holding these positions.

The German bombardment was maintained from Ypres as far as the shell-vent and of Roulers. The main activity of the Germans was evidenced along the stretch between the railway which connects Ypres and Roulers. The highway between the towns of Becelaere and Passchendaele also was the scene of terrific conflicts. It is along these graded stretches only that the Germans are able to move their infantry, because of the effects of the rain, which has covered the low ground between the towns.

In the development of the fighting to the north of Arras the French troops were able to continue the work of strengthening their positions, and the Germans in the fighting of Monday, particularly at Vermelles, between Lens and Labasse.

The night's official communique from the front states that in this northern area, where the allies on Wednesday succeeded in making captive 921 Germans.

### NEW ATTACKS ESSAYED BY GERMAN INFANTRY

German infantry essayed new attacks against the French in the Argonne region, but all met with failure. Most violent of these efforts was the assault on La Corno, north of the forest of Gurie, which is about twenty-five miles west of Verdun. This, like the other assaults to the south, failed before the stubborn French resistance.

In the Argonne the fighting is developing with surprising activity. Official statements from Bordeaux claim that the French have advanced steadily in the direction of Aitkirch, and near that city at the front is King George, the offensive movement is gaining in the direction of Muehausen.

The sporadic engagements in which the French and Germans have met during the past week apparently have led to a general battle which is now in progress, and which is reported to be of greater magnitude than any yet fought on the French front.

The strategic position lately occupied by the French as recorded in official statements evidently have been steps in the French preparation for the important conflict. The strength with which the Germans met the attack shows that the movement has been anticipated, and that the Germans have brought up considerable bodies of reinforcements.

Unofficial estimates now place the number of British reinforcements which have reached the firing line during the past fortnight at 400,000. With them at the front is King George. The Prince of Wales has just joined the British monarch. The royal visit to the front has been marked by important conferences, and one report is that before President Poincaré was on his visit to the firing line there was a conference in the field between the King, the President, King Albert, Lord Kitchener and General Joffre.

Certain it is that the presence of King George has greatly hastened the British troops, and their fighting of the past three days has been marked with dash and dash which were remarkable.

### NORTH GERMAN LLOYD LINER PROBABLY WAS MINE-LAYER

LONDON, December 4 (10:40 P. M.).—The German Lloyd liner Berne, which recently was interned at Trondheim, Norway, according to a statement issued by the British admiralty to-night, probably had engaged in the mining of the English coast.

When the Berlin put into Trondheim, the admiralty says, she was almost empty of coal. Continuing, the report says:

"She has been especially fitted for mine-laying, but so far as known she now has no mines on board, the probability being that these have been sown on the high seas."

"From past experience it is known that the track of merchant shipping, neutral as well as British, is a favorable locality for this operation. German floating mines are being sited constantly. On many occasions these mines have proved to be still dangerous. Merchant vessels, therefore, should be warned of the grave danger to which they are exposed. They must bear in mind that waters which, owing to their great depth, heretofore have been regarded as comparatively safe, now must be navigated with caution."

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